



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Laredo, TX

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Laredo was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located on the U.S.-Mexican border, Laredo (population 176,576) is a low-income minority community. Approximately 94 percent of residents are Hispanic, and 29.6 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Laredo is one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, fueled by trade between Mexico and the United States due to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Dozens of brownfields are located along creeks in the city and the Rio Grande River, where there is increased potential for water pollution and riparian ecosystem degradation. The cleanup of the targeted brownfield will complement the city's Chacon Creek Master Plan, which calls for the preservation of natural areas along the creek and development of a



Cleanup Grant



\$100,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Laredo for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 18-acre Killam Lake site in the Chacon Creek watershed. The site is potentially contaminated with hazardous substances from years of illegal dumping activities. Grant funds also will be used for cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team
214-665-2241

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of Laredo, TX
956-794-1650

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

network of nature trails and recreational facilities. Brownfields redevelopment is expected to enhance the city's Chacon Creek trail system and increase the value of adjacent properties.